



Healthy Homes
Healthy Children

Lead Update

Attention OB/GYN's!

KYBLS is now accepting referrals statewide!

Starting in December 2004, HEALTH's "Keep Your Baby Lead Safe" Program (KYBLS) will be accepting referrals from across the state. Initially piloted in Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket, KYBLS is a FREE service developed by the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program to educate pregnant women and new moms about lead poisoning and lead hazards. The KYBLS program aims to connect pregnant women and new moms with resources to help them provide a healthy, safe home for their new baby.

Starting in December, KYBLS will be targeting women who are homeowners or who rent from relatives or close friends to participate in the program. HEALTH hopes that this will facilitate enrolling property owners in Lead Hazard Reduction Programs across the state. However, KYBLS will provide services to any pregnant woman or new mom that is interested in participating, regardless of homeownership status.

Women who participate in KYBLS will receive the following services:

- Home visits from the Family Outreach Program;
- Lead poisoning and prenatal education;
- Referrals to Weatherization Programs (depending on need and financial eligibility);
- Referrals to social services such as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), childcare, Primary Care Providers, and Rte Care (as needed);
- Connections to Lead Hazard Reduction Programs to perform lead-safe renovations on the property (depending on need and financial eligibility);
- Ongoing support from the Family Outreach Program throughout participation in the program.

All OB/GYN offices in Rhode Island will receive a supply of referral brochures in December or early January. We hope that you will discuss the program with your clients and encourage women to participate. If you would like more information about the KYBLS program, please contact Ruth Lindberg at (401) 222-7681 or RuthL@doh.state.ri.us, or visit HEALTH's website at www.health.ri.gov/lead.

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PRODUCT WATCH!!!!!!!

The following products may contain a dangerous amount of lead:

- Toy Jewelry in vending machines (www.toyjewelryrecall.com)
- Lucas Limon® • Lucas Acidito®
- Super Lucas®
- Super Jovy Chili Powder®
- Some holiday string lights (PVC Plastic Products)

**Now Available Online:
Frequently Asked Questions about the Lead Hazard Mitigation Law**

The Lead Hazard Mitigation Law takes effect in Rhode Island on July 1, 2005. This Law sets clear standards that will enable landlords and property owners to protect their tenants from lead hazards on their property. Under the Law, landlords have new requirements and responsibilities. Tenants also have new rights and responsibilities.

In an effort to answer questions about the Law, the Housing Resources Commission and the Department of Health have worked to develop "Frequently Asked Questions about the Lead Hazard Mitigation Law." These FAQ's are available online at <http://www.hrc.ri.gov/mitigation.html>.

As individuals with an interest in eliminating childhood lead poisoning in Rhode Island, we hope that this document will facilitate your understanding of the Law and will serve as a valuable resource. You may also receive questions about the Law from people in the community or some of your partner organizations. It is important and beneficial to have an understanding of the Law and to be able to direct others to this online resource. Please take a moment to visit the web site and read through the Frequently Asked Questions.

If you have further questions about the Lead Hazard Mitigation Law after reading this document, please do not hesitate to contact the Lead Program's Outreach and Education Coordinator at (401) 222-7681 or RuthL@doh.state.ri.us, or contact the Housing Resources Commission at (800) 570-0768.

HEALTH and CDC Prioritize Screening of Refugee Children

On December 6, 2004, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an urgent letter to the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Managers in the United States. The letter notified Lead Program Managers that a number of children newly arrived from Africa have recently been identified with elevated blood lead levels. Medical records indicate that the lead poisoning occurred after the children were relocated to the United States. Refugee children often come to the United States with a very poor nutritional status. Additionally, parents lack knowledge about lead paint, soil and dust hazards. These two factors combined put refugee children at very high risk for lead poisoning.

Rhode Island has always prioritized the health of refugee children, however, HEALTH will be taking additional steps to ensure that all children newly arrived in Rhode Island are tested for lead poisoning and are provided with adequate follow-up. HEALTH is taking the following actions:

- We are working with the three refugee resettlement agencies in Rhode Island to ensure that their staff has all of the necessary information needed to assist families with young children and pregnant women. We have created a resource sheet for these agencies that will help to direct families to the appropriate service and to ensure screening and follow-up.
- We are crosschecking the Lead Elimination Surveillance System (LESS) data with refugee data from the resettlement agencies in order to ensure that all refugee children under the age of six have received a blood lead test.
- We are working with key providers to ensure that all refugee children under the age of six are screened more than once during their first year in the United States. Due to the malnourished state of many of these children, follow-up within a few months of the first blood lead screening will be critical.

If you have any question about this initiative, please contact Ruth Lindberg at (401) 222-7681 or RuthL@doh.state.ri.us.